

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

The Specification has been objected to. The Specification has been amended to overcome the objection.

The claims have been objected to and rejected as indefinite. The claims have been amended to overcome these.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected as anticipated by Dischler, WO 97/34783. Claims 3-8 and 11 have been rejected as unpatentable over Dischler in view of Brawn, US 3,887,214.

Amended claim 1 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 9 (canceled). Claim 1, as well as claims 2-8 and 10-11 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

New claim 12 recites the edge extending obliquely from an underside of the module cover toward an underside of the cap, the edge defining a chamfer extending along an outer perimeter of the cap (Figs. 3d or 3e). Dischler, Brawn, and the other art of record do not disclose a gas bag restraining device with a chamfer and the other claimed features. Claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 13 recites the edge being clamped between an underside of the cap and a part of the gas bag module, the cap being immediately attached to the part (Fig. 3a). Dischler, Brawn, and the other art of record do not disclose a gas bag restraining device with this clamping and the other claimed features.

New claim 14 recites the part is a gas generator (5). Dischler, Brawn, and the other art of record do not disclose a gas bag restraining device with clamping between the cap and the gas generator and the other claimed features.

Claim 13, as well as claim 14 which depends from claim 13, are in condition for allowance.

New claim 15 recites the cap forming a ring-shaped tongue and groove joint with the edge, the joint extending around a perimeter of the cap (Figs. 3b or 3c). The Office Action has combined the interconnecting feature (60, 62) of Brawn with the air bag assembly of Dischler.

Brawn discloses a safety apparatus with resilient interconnecting portions (60, 62) that interlock to form a linear joint as part of a dashboard (14) (Col. 6, lines 1-26). Dischler does not disclose how the cylindrical central hub (78) is connected to the inflator (12). It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be lead to use the linear interconnecting portions (60, 62) of Brawn for the ring-shaped connection of Dischler.

The motivation cited in the Office Action (i.e., providing a secure and efficient connection) would not have lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Dischler. Dischler already has a secure and efficient connection (Dischler, page 9, lines 1-15). Claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 16 recites the edge having a projection extending toward an underside of the cap, the projection being

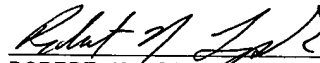
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disposed adjacent the underside of the cap, the underside of the cap having a ring-shaped recess for receiving the projection, the recess extending along a perimeter of the cap (Figs. 3f or 3g). For reasons discussed above regarding claim 15, Dischler and Brawn, neither alone or in combination, disclose the ring-shaped connection of claim 16. Claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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